

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD  
BOARD MEETING SESSION – OFFICE OF RESEARCH, PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE**

**ITEM 9**

**SUBJECT**

UPDATE ON THE EMERGENCY URBAN WATER CONSERVATION REGULATION SELF-CERTIFICATION STRESS TEST RESULTS.

**DISCUSSION**

In June 2015, the State Water Board adopted mandatory conservation requirements designed to ensure a 25% reduction in urban water use statewide in response to the worst drought in modern history. During the next 12 months, Californians responded by conserving over 1.6 million acre-feet of water, cutting overall statewide urban water use by approximately 24 percent.

Due to improved water supply conditions this year, the state has transitioned to a self-identified conservation mandate that allows suppliers to analyze their overall supply reliability assuming an additional three years of drought. This approach is also referred to as a “stress-test” approach, and sets the supplier’s mandatory conservation requirements as the percentage shortfall in projected supply at the end of 2019, assuming water supply conditions mirror those during the 2012-13, 2013-14, and 2014-15 water years. Under the stress test approach each water supplier’s mandatory conservation requirement is commensurate with need; suppliers whose analyses, under the required assumptions, identify no shortfall do not have a mandatory conservation requirement.

Switching to a stress test allows for a rigorous, public, and transparent assessment of water supply reliability during three additional dry years, and is not intended to allow use to rebound to 2013 levels. Though parts of the state received near-average precipitation this year, other parts of the state did not. The state continues to be in a drought, and it is critical that Californians continue to conserve water. This informational item will summarize results of the stress test information provided by the State's urban water suppliers.

**POLICY ISSUE**

None. Informational Item..

**FISCAL IMPACT**

None. Informational Item

**REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT**

None. Informational Item

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

None – Informational Item